

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Germans from Russia first migrated from Germany to South Russia when Catherine II, with the help of Alexander I, Czar of Russia, published a manifesto that invited foreigners to settle in New Russia; and,

Whereas, German immigrants accepted the invitation and founded many colonies from the countryside they bought from Russian nobles, but the Russian government soon withdrew the special privileges granted to these settlers and forced them to leave Russia; and,

Whereas, Descendants of the Germans from Russia started the Germans from Russia Heritage Society that now has a home office in Bismarck, North Dakota, that houses an excellent research library for all interested parties; and,

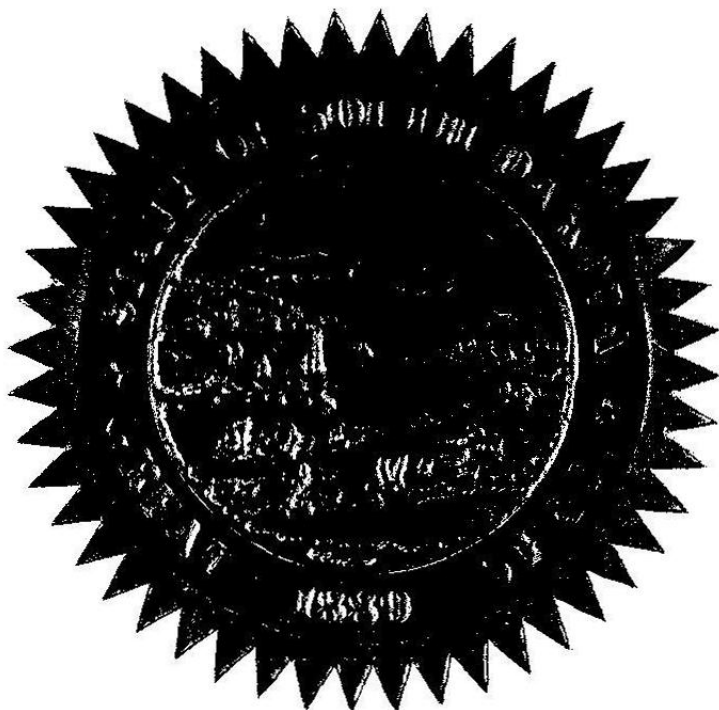
Whereas, The Germans from Russia Heritage Society will be having their 35th Annual International Convention in Pierre, South Dakota, from July 14-17, 2005; and,

Whereas, The convention's opening ceremony will be held on Thursday, July 14, 2005, at 8:30 a.m. at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center with an anticipated attendance of 500 participants from all over the world:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 14, 2005, as

GERMANS FROM RUSSIA DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Seventh Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State